

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 345

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should reassert the traditional opposition of the United States to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian State.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 1998

Mr. SAXTON (for himself, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. DELAY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should reassert the traditional opposition of the United States to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian State.

Whereas the United States has never endorsed the creation of an independent Palestinian State;

Whereas the United States has traditionally opposed the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian State because of concerns that such a State could pose a threat to Israel and could have a destabilizing effect on the entire Middle East;

Whereas the United States stated its position, after Israel and the Palestinians signed the Oslo Accords, that all

questions of Palestinian sovereignty and statehood are matters which must be mutually agreed upon by the parties;

Whereas the administration's recent statements on a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian State have been contradictory and confusing;

Whereas a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood would be a grievous violation of the Oslo Accords;

Whereas despite the Oslo Accords, Chairman Arafat, his Cabinet, and the Palestinian National Council have threatened to unilaterally proclaim the establishment of a Palestinian State in May 1999;

Whereas the Palestinian Cabinet on September 24, 1998, stated: "at the end of the interim period, it (the Palestinian Government) shall declare the establishment of a Palestinian State on all Palestinian land occupied since 1967, with Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Palestinian State";

Whereas Chairman Arafat, speaking to the United Nations on September 28, 1998, called upon world leaders to support an independent Palestinian State;

Whereas Chairman Arafat stated on July 15, 1998: "There is a transition period of 5 years and after 5 years we have the right to declare an independent Palestinian State"; and

Whereas Palestinian National Council Speaker Salim al-Za'nun stated on June 15, 1998: "If following our declaration of a State, Israel renews its occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian people will struggle and resist the occupier with

all means possible, including armed struggle”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) Israel, and Israel alone, can determine its
4 security needs;

5 (2) the final political status of the Palestinian
6 entity can only be determined through bilateral ne-
7 gotiations and agreement between Israel and the
8 Palestinian Authority;

9 (3) the President must reaffirm that any such
10 unilateral declaration of a Palestinian State would
11 be a grievous violation of the Oslo Accords, would
12 seriously impede any possibility of advancing the
13 peace process, and would have severe negative con-
14 sequences for Palestinian relations with the United
15 States; and

16 (4) the President should now publicly and un-
17 equivocally state that the United States will actively
18 oppose such a unilateral declaration and will not ex-
19 tend recognition to any unilaterally declared Pal-
20 estinian State.

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